

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, prior to the first paragraph which begins on line 3, please insert the following:

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

On page 1, prior to the second paragraph which begins on line 12, please insert the following:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 1, line 12 and ends on line 19 , with the following rewritten paragraph:

Apparatuses of this type are used, for example, in automatic samplers. Samplers suited for the highly precise taking of liquid samples are available from the assignee, Endress + Hauser for instance in the form of the 'ASP-Station 2000' sampler, wherein time, quantity, and flowrate proportional samples are taken using vacuum equipment. As already indicated, a metering system, utilizing, among other things, a metering container with a lid, serves for the highly precise sample collection.

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 1, line 20 and ends on line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the ASP-Station 2000 sampler, the sample taking occurs in four steps: At the beginning of a sample taking, the outlet hose of the metering system is pneumatically clamped to close it, and a pump, in this instance a diaphragm pump, blows through the metering container to clear the suction line for the sample. In a second step, sample is sucked in, until the two long conductivity probes, which are secured on the lid of the metering container, respond. Then, the desired sample volume is retained, and excess sample flows back to the location where the sample was taken. In a last step, the

constricted outlet hose is opened, and the sample is drained into the appropriate sample bottle. The sample bottles are stored cooled in the ASP-Station 2000 sampler, for the purpose of sample preservation.

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 21, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 6, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 26, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 7, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 17, please insert the following:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 7, line 17 and ends on line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows a plan view of a preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the invention. Fig. 1 is a cross sectional view ~~according to the cutting~~ taken along the plane A-A of Fig. 2. By way of example, the ideas of the invention are described in the following on the basis of a metering system, which is applied e.g. in a sampler. As already indicated above, the apparatus of the invention is in no way limited to this special case of application.